

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: LABOR NOTES: LABOR PROTESTS INCREASE

1. DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ASK FOR UNION ELECTIONS: THE "GROUP OF TEN" INDEPENDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT UNTRACH JOINTLY WROTE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET SEPTEMBER 7 CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS IN CHILE. THE LETTER SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS THE RIGHT TO MEET FREELY WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, THE RIGHT TO ELECT TRADE UNION LEADERS, THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, THE RIGHT TO PETITION AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY, THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF INDIVIDUAL WORKING MAN'S RIGHTS DIMINISHED OR SUPPRESSED BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. IN THE LETTER THIRTY-ONE PRESIDENTS OF TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS AND CONFEDERATIONS EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF CHILE BY FREE WORLD TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AND ARGUE THAT THE GOC'S DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL TRADE UNION RIGHTS IS THE CAUSE OF THE SITUATION. THE AUTHORS NOTE THAT UNLESS THE SITUATION IS PROFUNDLY AND URGENTLY CORRECTED CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE.

2. TRUCK OWNERS ANGRY: LEON VILARIN, PRESIDENT OF

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THE FEDERATION OF TRUCK OWNERS TOLD THE PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 THAT CHILE IS LIVING UNDER A CIVILIAN ECONOMIC DICTATORSHIP SUPPORTED BY THE MILITARY. HE NOTED THAT SINCE OCTOBER 1973 COSTS OF GASOLINE, TIRES AND LUBRICANTS HAVE RISEN 23-60 PERCENT WHILE FREIGHT RATES HAVE FALLEN 38 PERCENT. VILARIN ALSO CRITICIZED A NEW MINISTERIAL DECREE PERMITTING GAS STATIONS TO SET PRICES OF FUELS.

VILARIN ASKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO HAVE A TRUCKERS' ASSEMBLY IN RENACA (VALPARAISO) WHERE IN 1973 HE ANNOUNCED A TRUCKING STRIKE THAT ENDED WITH THE DOWNFALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. HIS REQUEST TO THE INTENDENTE OF VALPARAISO WAS FIRST APPROVED BUT THEN DENIED.

3. LEFTISTS PETITION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED COORDINADORA NACIONAL SINDICAL JOINED WITH THE CLAT AFFILIATED FEDERATION UNITARIO DE TRABAJADORES (FUT) TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8 ANNOUNCING THAT THE TRADE UNION LEADERS HAD SENT A 32PAGE DOCUMENT TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET OUTLINING THEIR PROGRAM FOR A RAPID RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN CHILE. THE DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY COMMUNISTS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERS AFFILIATED WITH THE TWO SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.

4. NO-LUNCH PROTESTS CONTINUE IN THE HUACHIPATO STEEL MILL AND IN EL SALVADOR COPPER MINE. AT THE STEEL MILL LUNCH IS ACTUALLY PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY FOR THE WORKERS IN LIEU OF A CASH PAYMENT. AT THE EL SALVADOR MINE, THE STATE-OWNED COMPANY PROVIDES ONLY LUNCHROOMS WHERE THE MINERS MAY EAT THEIR LUNCHES. PRODUCTION HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED.

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